

Michael Steele and Suzanna Hoffs of the Bangles, and the dB's Peter Holsapple. But the electric half, marred by muddy sound and shaky delivery, was far from R.E.M.'s best.

This reporter skipped the post-awards breakfast, hosted by Warner Bros. Records, in favor of a brilliant Irvine Plaza show by the Last Poets, who blended militant song-poems with compelling jazz-funk rhythms. The group's appearance was part of Afrika Bambaataa's Tenth Anniversary Zooloo Nation Celebration, which also included a gritty set by Bronx rapper Lovebug Starski, newly signed to Epic Records.

In general, this year's CMJ Music Marathon was a well-planned and effective forum for grass roots communication. But the \$125 registration fee is definitely on the high side, and the practice of asking invited panelists to pay it seems amateurish and self-defeating. Whether or not these criticisms are heeded, CMJ president Robert Haber has already announced plans for the next New Music Awards, to be held November 8, 1986, in New York City. ■

LAWMAKERS

Home Taping Legislation

by Brian McGuire

WASHINGTON D.C.—On October 30, representatives of the music industry and consumer groups argued the pros and cons of this year's "home taping" legislation before a Senate subcommittee.

"This bill does not strike the heart of the issue," claimed Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Oh.). "How does putting a tax on everyone compensate for the wrongs of a few?" he asked, referring to S.1739's proposal to put a royalty charge of between five and 25 percent on home tape recorders, and a penny-per-minute charge on blank tape.

Stanley Gortikov, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, Songwriters Guild President George David Weiss, and economist Alan Greenspan reiterated claims made at similar hearings that the record industry loses 26 percent of its sales to home tapers. Gortikov said that dual cassette tape machines are a new "crisis" for record companies, and illustrated his point by copying a tape with a Sony recorder during his testimony.

Gortikov went on to state that home taping has resulted in a 50-percent drop in record releases

since 1979. However, when he cited a study showing that only one out of six record companies turns a profit, the Senators called him on it. As Metzenbaum quoted reports of record profits from CBS, RCA, and MCA, Gortikov replied that he could not back up his statement because such information is confidential.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) asked pro-taping witness Charles Ferris, spokesman for the Audio Recording Rights Coalition, if record taping deprives an artist of royalty benefits. Ferris cited what he called the "myth of the displaced sale," saying that tapers buy no fewer records because of their activities.

Leonard Feldman, senior editor

TECHNOLOGY

N.A.R.A.S. Synth Forum Hosted by A&M Studios

by Jeff Janning

HOLLYWOOD—"User-friendly," a catch phrase of the computer age, best describes the N.A.R.A.S. Digital Synthesizer Forum, held here on November 2 and 3 at A&M Records. Unlike last year's show, which found many manufacturers displaying their wares in all-too-close proximity, A&M's recording studio/soundstage complex offered plenty of space to inspect hardware offered by Akai, Casio, EMU, Ensoniq, Fairlight, Fostex, Kurzweil, Linn, Oberheim, Roland, Simmons, Synclavier, and Yamaha.

The soundstage was filled with 16 software displays, featuring sequencing packages for computers from Hybrid Arts, Music Data, Passport, Sight & Sound, MIDI-max, and Syntech, among others. Indus was showing a disk drive they had adapted into a MIDI Memory for saving custom sounds, replacing the expensive and limiting cartridge systems used by the current stage-of-the-art synths. Hybrid Arts unveiled its latest Atari software package, MidiTrack III, made to interact with the I28K Atari 130XE.

Seminars highlighted the two-day event offering inside information on current technology from both creative and business perspectives. Lawrence Duhat expounded on E.R.I.C. (a new noise elimination system); Dan Garfield (a.k.a. "Dr. Click") covered interfacing, as did Chairman of the MIDI Manufacturer's Association Jim Cooper. Ken Yas discussed the SoundDroid digital sound-processing system developed by LucasFilm (covered in detail in MC's September 16

of Audio magazine and technical editor of Video Review, pointed out that research is being done on the musical potential of floppy discs. "Do you plan to tax everyone with a personal computer?" he asked, referring to the all-inclusive nature of the bill.

Concluding the hearing, subcommittee Chairman Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), who introduced the legislation, reflected on the copyright woes created by new technology, and the "question of equity," which he said the current bill does not satisfy. Mathias asked, "Has society reached the point that an idea can be viewed as a piece of property? Right now it is only if you write it down on a piece of paper." ■

issue). Clark Splangler touched on synths and how they relate to film scoring, and Suzanne Ciani covered the same for commercials, offering sampling of her jingles.

Sampling was delved into by Terry Fryer, who gave examples of how it is used to the extreme in disco records, while Brian Banks and Anthony Marinelli approached the synth topic from the classical point of view, giving direction in how psycho-acoustics allow the listener to be fooled by electronic instruments. Then there was the founding father, Robert Moog, who traveled back through time to show the very beginnings of it all with a slide-and-music presentation.

The SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit took place in the 70,000-square-foot Los Angeles Convention Center earlier in the week. A pleasant change from the cramped quarters of the two New York hotels that hosted the event in 1984, this year's event included 245 companies displaying their products and services. The conference, entitled "New Directions in Technology," addressed the wave of decisions to be made in order to keep up with the rapidfire pace of current technology. As demonstrated in the MIDI forum, computers and microprocessors are in the foreground as they invade digital audio, stereo television (transmission and production), and graphics.

The SMPTE Conference and the AES Show will be staging their East and West Coast events on alternate years in the future, to accommodate those who are not able to travel to opposite coasts. ■

RADIO REPORT

by Kenny Ryback

Listed below are local bands currently being played on Southern California AOR/ROCK MUSIC radio stations. New additions to the playlist being broadcast on a regular rotation are marked with an *. In addition, selected local talent featured on specialty shows are noted.

KROQ-FM

Private Domain*
Mr. Mister
Wall of Voodoo
Oingo Boingo
Felony
Red Hot Chili Peppers
Motel
Cruados
Jane Wiedlin

91X-FM

New Marines
Wall of Voodoo
Oingo Boingo
Gary Myrick
Cruados
Mr. Mister

KLOS 95.5-FM

(No local bands in regular rotation at report time.)
Local Music Show
Felony
In Flight
Roxbury Drive
Devon LaCross
Long Ryders

KMET-FM

Mr. Mister
Cruados

KNAC-FM

Precious Metal* 105.5
Wall of Voodoo*
Oingo Boingo
Jane Wiedlin
Red Hot Chili Peppers
Gary Myrick
X
Lee Ving/Alamo Bay
Motel
Cruados
Three O'Clock
Lone Justice
Fishbone
What's New For Lunch
Long Ryders
Lone Justice
New Marines

101 KGB-FM

Black 'n Blue
Autograph
Cruados
Mr. Mister
Ratt
Homegrown Hour
Victim
Crystal
Ted Yards
Darius & the Magnets
The Rock

FINE TUNING:

MIND YOUR MANORS: L.A.'s loss is San Diego's gain. Katy Manor is back in a big way. She joins Bryan Jones for mornings on the deep South's 91X, "The Cutting Edge of Rock & Roll."

KMET NIGHT SHIFTS: Veteran air personality Cynthia Fox will be showing up a few hours earlier to make room for Jack Snyder's return to a full-time air shift. Cynthia is on from 6-10 p.m. and Jack takes over from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Wrapping up the wee hours is Rick Lewis 'til 6 a.m., and if you're still awake, there's always the Morning Zoo with Jeff Gonzer and the return of Ace Young. Middles belong to Billy Juggs, and Sky Daniels will drive you home with the aid of Paraquat Kelly. Word on rock warrior Max Hunter is forthcoming.

For you statistics freaks, below is a sampling of the latest Birch ratings:

STATION	AUG/SEPT	SEPT/OCT	NOTEABLE
KHIS-FM	9.9	10.8	16.4 in women 18-34 AQH
KROQ	7.1	6.9	23.1 in teens AQH
KLOS	8.3	6.9	18.3 in men 18-34 AQH
KABC	7.3	5.8	17.4 in women 34+ AQH
KMET	4.9	5.1	10.6 in men 18-34 AQH